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CORE Honors Three Western Governors with 'Ocean Science Leadership' Awards
West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health Earns Recognition at Capitol Hill Event

(Washington, D.C.) Today, the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) honored Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (California), Governor Theodore Kulongoski (Oregon) and Governor Christine Gregoire (Washington) for the "West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health." Rear Admiral Dick West (U.S. Navy retired), President and CEO of CORE, discussed the importance of this agreement and handed a plaque to representatives of the three governors before a room filled with ocean scientists, policy advisers and hill staffers.

"The agreement these three Governors have made is an historic and bold step in advancing responsible stewardship of our oceans," said Rear Admiral West. "We sincerely hope that this partnership continues, grows to other states and motivates more responsible federal ocean policy," continued West.

The agreement hopes to tap world-class experts in each state to address challenges facing the ocean and coasts including:

- Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches for citizens of the region;
- Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats;
- Promoting effective ecosystem-based management of ocean and coastal resources;
- Reducing adverse impacts from offshore development;
- Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring;
- Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among tri-state residents; and
- Fostering sustainable economic development in coastal communities.

Dr. Mark Abbott, outgoing Board Chair of CORE and Dean and Professor in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University remarked, "this is an exciting opportunity for members of the ocean community to collaborate all along the West Coast. It is indeed a positive step for our elected leaders to recognize the need for coastal and ocean partnerships in our country. There is much work that remains to be accomplished, but with the backing of local, state and federal governments, there is a bright future for new levels of interaction between the ocean research community and policy makers."

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CORE is the Washington, DC-based non-profit association representing the leading ocean research and education institutions. Since 1994, CORE has established a leadership role on oceanographic issues and the development of marine science policy. CORE is respected as the voice of the ocean research community and is dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the oceans among government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the general public.